

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, JA, US

SUBJ: OVERALL REVIEW

REF: A. TOKYO 16825

B. KRATZER/GLENNAN TELCON, JAN 9

1. MATSUURA, FONOFF, INFORMED SCICOUNS ON JAN 9 THAT EXCELLENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN PREPARING FOR OVERALL REVIEW. DR. NAKAI (SEE REF A) HAS INFORMALLY ACCEPTED MEMBERSHIP ON PANEL, THUS COMPLETING SELECTION OF JAPANESE PANEL MEMBERS. IN ADDITION, MR. HIROSHI MASUDA, SENIOR DIPLOMAT NOW SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY ARCHIVES, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS JAPANESE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO MEMBERS OF MATSUURA'S STAFF (FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVISION).

2. MATSUURA BELIEVES, AS DOES EMBASSY, THAT HOLDING FIRST PANEL MEETING IN FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY IS NOW UNREALISTIC, BUT HE IS ANXIOUS NOT TO LOSE MOMENTUM AND HAS ASKED FOR US VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING MEETING IN EARLY MARCH. HE NOTED, OF COURSE, THAT FINAL DECISION ON MEETING SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF US AND JAPANESE PANEL MEMBERS. FROM EMBASSY STANDPOINT, FIRST WEEK OF MARCH IS SUITABLE (AMBASSADOR HODGSON EXPECTED TO BE VISITING CONSTITUENT POST MARCH 10-14), WITH SECOND WEEK OF APRIL BEING SUGGESTED ALTERNATE.

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3. MATSUURA HAS PROPOSED THAT WHEN SELECTION OF US AND JAPANESE PANELISTS AND PLANS FOR FIRST PANEL MEETING ARE COMPLETED, ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY SUITABLE MEANS SUCH AS JOINT PRESS RELEASE. THIS WOULD ALSO SERVE TO PROVIDE RECORD OF AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH UP TILL NOW INCORPORATED ONLY IN EXCHANGE OF TALKING PAPERS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS GOOD SUGGESTION, WHICH WILL HELP GIVE REVIEW PROPER SEND-OFF.

4. IN CONSIDERING TIMING OF INITIAL PANEL MEETING, EMBASSY BELIEVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EXTENDING STAY OF US MEMBERS TO 12-14 DAYS. EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS IS THAT JOINT MEETINGS SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS OF VISITS BY AS MANY US PANEL MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING SENIOR PANELISTS, TO REPRESENTATIVE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC, AND INDUSTRIAL R&D INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS TO PRODUCTION PLANTS IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES, IF PANEL MEETING TAKES PLACE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH, AS NOW SUGGESTED BY MATSUURA, FIELD VISITS SHOULD BE MADE DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS OR GUIDANCE ON TIMING OF PANEL MEETING, FEASIBILITY OF FIELD VISITS, AND ACCEPTABILITY OF JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS.
HODGSON

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